

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof, containing an immortalizing gene interposed between a pair of site-specific recombination sequences and a suicide gene in the outside of the pair of site-specific recombination sequences, wherein the suicide gene can exhibit its function after excision of the pair of site-specific recombination sequences, wherein the liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof does not contain a promoter derived from virus.

2. (Currently amended) The reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or the passage cell line thereof of Claim 1, wherein ~~said mammalian is human~~ the liver cell line or the passage cell line thereof comprises human liver cells.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or the passage cell line thereof of Claim 1, wherein said reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line is CYNK-1 ~~(deposited with International Patent Organism Depository, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, address: AIST Tsukuba Central 6, 1-1, Higashi 1-Chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305-8566 Japan, deposited date: March 10, 2004, accession number: FERM BP 08657).~~

5. (Original) A mammalian liver cell obtainable by excising the immortalizing gene from a reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof of Claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) A bioartificial liver, comprising a reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof of Claim 1.

7. (Previously presented) A cell preparation, comprising as an active ingredient, a reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof of Claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) A non-viral vector, comprising a non-viral promoter and encoding an immortalizing gene between a pair of site-specific recombination sequences and a suicide gene in the outside of the pair of site-specific recombination sequences.

9. (Withdrawn) A bioartificial liver, comprising a mammalian liver cell of Claim 5.

10. (Previously presented) A cell preparation, comprising as an active ingredient, a mammalian liver cell of Claim 5.